

dominicanos, porque era una mujer y porque su familia dependía de la ayuda pública.

Hoy aquellos que insistían en poner trabas a las pretensiones de Lourdes deben estar enterados que esa latina es Asistente del Fiscal General. Entre sus actividades como fiscal ha hecho, precisamente, la labor de investigar casos de discriminación en viviendas, crédito, empleos, educación y lugares de acceso público.

Lourdes ha sido Presidente de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudiantes de Leyes y estuvo en África de Sur, trabajando con temas de la comunidad a través del Centro de Recursos Legales.

En 1998 volvió de la Universidad de Buffalo a Queens para iniciar su carrera de abogada desempeñándose como Asistente del Fiscal de Distrito, en ese momento era la única descendiente de dominicanos ocupando esa posición. Desde que regresó a Queens se ha mantenido activa en los trabajos comunitarios, algo que se prometió a sí misma hacer, cuando aún era estudiante. Lourdes ha hecho suya la frase de la escritora Maya Angelous, "Aunque trates de arrastrarme en la tierra, como el viento, yo subiré". El secreto de sus logros, señala, ha sido el mantenerse enfocada, trabajar duro, pero sobre todo, no sentirse avergonzada de sus orígenes.

"No olvido mis raíces. La historia de mi gente es lo que me hace especial. Creo que el poder de soñar, de desarrollarse, de progresar es lo que nos hace llegar a donde queremos."

LARK-MARIE ANTÓN, SECRETARIA DE PRENSA
DEL ALCALDE MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

Esta es una mujer que ha impuesto su conocimiento y se mantiene con "la sartén por el mango". Lark-Marie es responsable de supervisar las actividades de prensa y publicidad de varias agencias y oficinas de la ciudad de Nueva York. Entre ellas, la Autoridad de Viviendas, Comisión de la Ciudad para las Naciones Unidas, Cuerpo Consular y Protocolo, Departamento de Record e información, Comisión sobre asuntos de la mujer, Oficina para combatir la violencia doméstica, Comisión de Arte, y la oficina de asuntos de los veteranos, solo para nombrar algunas. Además es la portavoz y el contacto del alcalde Bloomberg.

Con una herencia dominicana y libanesa, esta joven mujer, de apenas 25 años, nació y creció en Nueva York. Se graduó en el Marist College en Comunicación y Relaciones Públicas, además de psicología. Luego, estuvo en la universidad de West Virginia en la que obtuvo una maestría en Estudios de Comunicación.

Al llegar a Nueva York con los títulos obtenidos, Antón trabajó como productora en proyectos como 2001 MTV Movie Awards y TV Funhouse en el canal Comedy Central. Su experiencia abarca un internado como reportera de WNBC, canal 4 y como Supervisora de Encuestas del Instituto Marist Poll.

Lark-Marie es una fiel creyente del poder de la educación y ha participado como instructora adjunta en el Marist College y como asistente de profesor en la Universidad de West Virginia.

ALEXANDRA VENTURA

Nacida y criada en Queens, de raíces dominicanas, Alexandra Ventura es la Directora de la Unidad de Ciudadanía del Estado de Nueva York. Ventura con su dedicación ha logrado crear un puente entre la comunidad dominicana y el gobernador George Pataki, llevándole a este, las inquietudes y necesidades de los inmigrantes dominicanos, y por supuesto de otras nacionalidades.

La directora de esta unidad, creada por Pataki en año 2001, trabaja al lado del gobernador desde el año 1997 con las labores

como Asistente Especial de Proyectos Especiales y Protocolo. La señora Ventura ha desempeñado funciones de gran importancia para la comunidad hispana, abogando por mejores condiciones, y desarrollando programas en beneficio de los hispanos de Nueva York. Desde su posición Alexandra ha desarrollado interesantes campañas y ha permitido la integración del gobierno estatal en asuntos relevantes para los inmigrantes dominicanos. En el año 98, debió asumir la tarea de asistir al alcalde Guiliani en los trabajos de ayuda a la República Dominicana tras el paso del huracán Georges. Graduada en Syracuse University, con una maestría en Estudios Políticos y otra en Administración Pública, en el año 2002 la Mesa Redonda Dominico-americana la designó como miembro del Consejo Directivo y prestó servicio como Secretaria Asistente del mismo. Además la Ventura es miembro de varias organizaciones como "100 Hispanic Women and the American Society for Public Administration."

DIANA REYNA, CONCEJAL DE LA CIUDAD DE
NUEVA YORK, DISTRITO 34

Diana Reyna, representa a Williamsburg, Bushwick y Bedford-Stuyvesant en el Consejo de la Ciudad. Ha desarrollado una carrera distinguida por el servicio público, destacándose como parte del personal de La Asamblea Estatal, abogando por los asuntos de la comunidad.

Desde 1997 hasta su juramentación como Concejal en el año 2001, Reyna trabajó como jefa de personal del asambleista Vito J. López, antes de esta designación, fue ayudante legislativa.

Su trabajo como concejal ha sido activo y constante en la comunidad a la que representa. Como ejemplo podemos citar que, en respuesta a la necesidad de servicios bancarios en la comunidad de Bushwick, cooperó en la fundación de una unión federal cooperativa, en la que fungió como miembro del consejo directivo. La cooperativa provee a la comunidad donde opera servicios que antes estaban ausentes.

La concejal Reyna también ha realizado actividades comunitarias. Actualmente es la coordinadora de Brooklyn Unidos y "South Side Task Force", agrupaciones latinas que proporcionan a los residentes locales un foro para expresar sus intereses sobre los temas de sus vecindarios. Ella es también la facilitadora de la Coalición de Viviendas Públicas del Norte de Brooklyn y de la Coalición de Padres de Bushwick, otras dos organizaciones que ayudan a los residentes a involucrarse en los procesos de toma de decisiones.

Reyna es graduada de la Pace University de Pleasantville, Nueva York, nació en Brooklyn y es hija de dos inmigrantes dominicanos que llegaron a Nueva York a principios de los años 60.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JAMES P. GARRISON

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to recognize Army Lieutenant Colonel James P. Garrison for his outstanding service to our Nation as a member of the Army House Liaison Division. Lieutenant Colonel Garrison will be leaving his position in the House Liaison Division on June 3, 2003, for an assignment as the Commander of the 121st Signal Battalion, 1st Infantry Division in Kitzingen,

Germany. His illustrious career as a Signal Officer embodies all of the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Garrison has distinguished himself as a friend, trusted resource, and an officer who epitomizes the modern American professional soldier.

Lieutenant Colonel Garrison has demonstrated his outstanding tactical and operational expertise in numerous command and staff positions overseas and in the continental United States. Continually serving in positions of ever-increasing responsibility, the highlights of his career include serving as a Battalion Signal Officer with the 6-27th Field Artillery (MLRS) during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; a Company Commander with the 17th Signal Battalion; Presidential Communications Officer for President William J. Clinton; and a battalion and brigade operations officer for the 7th Signal Brigade. As evidence of the quality of Lieutenant Colonel Garrison's leadership, management, and inter-personal skills, he was specially selected to serve as a Congressional Fellow for the United States Army, serving on the personal staff of former Arkansas Senator Tim Hutchinson, prior to joining Army's House Liaison Division.

Upon leaving Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Garrison will return to Germany for his fourth European tour, where he will continue to serve our nation by leading some 600 "Big Red One" soldiers. Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join in offering a heartfelt thanks to Lieutenant Colonel James Garrison for his selfless service. He represents the very best that our great Nation has to offer and we wish Lieutenant Colonel Garrison and his wife, Sarita, continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHITMORE-BOLLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Whitmore-Bolles Elementary School on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. The school's long and successful history began in 1927 when Laura Whitmore donated the land for the purpose of an elementary school. Currently, Whitmore-Bolles schools 367 students, preschoolers through fifth grade. In addition, Whitmore-Bolles schooling includes a central program for hearing impaired/hard of hearing elementary students. A reflection of Whitmore-Bolles outstanding faculty, students and education can be seen in the various third and fourth generation families that remain in this elementary program.

Whitmore-Bolles Elementary has flourished because of its dedicated and exceptional staff. There are a number of highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers that have spent their entire careers at Whitmore-Bolles. Every year several teachers from Whitmore-Bolles are nominated for the Alberta Muirhead Teacher of the Year Award. In addition to the admirable teaching staff, Whitmore-Bolles has also prospered because of its committed and highly regarded principals. Since Miss Marguerite Fay

became the first principal in September 1927, Whitmore-Bolles has only had six principals, each of whom have maintained an excellent educational environment. These principals include: Jack Rabe (1949–1967), Walfrid Toma (1967–1971), Roy Raymer (1971–1984), Bernard Boyle (1984–1989), John Tobin (1989–1999), and the current principal Dawn Eule.

Over the years the hard work and commitment of the Whitmore-Bolles faculty has been apparent in the elementary school's accomplished students. Whitmore-Bolles continues to place first in citywide championships for track, volleyball (boys and girls), and chess. The fourth and fifth graders are involved in annual concerts given by the band and select choir programs. Also, the elementary students have received many art awards for excellence. In addition, the students this year at Whitmore-Bolles have expanded their educational environment by developing a school newspaper, the "Whitmore Times." The publication includes articles and stories written and researched by students. Furthermore, this year four students and two former students were honored in Law Day Essay. Before graduating from Whitmore-Bolles, all students are rewarded for their efforts. This year the fourth graders at Whitmore-Bolles are traveling to Mackinaw Island, and the fifth graders are off to camp. Although the teachers play a significant role in the development of Whitmore students, this energetic and talented student body would not be possible without the active PTA and parent volunteers that plan the students' various functions throughout the year.

Whitmore-Bolles is a well-respected school known for its achievements in education. This past fall Whitmore-Bolles elementary was awarded the Golden Apple Award by former Governor John Engler. Whitmore elementary was one of two in Dearborn to receive this recognition for success and achievement. In addition, this elementary school recently received accreditation through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation. Whitmore-Bolles counts among its prestigious alumni Representative Gary Woronchak, former Lions quarterback Gary Danielson, and Channel Seven news anchor Erik Smith. With 75 years of exceptional students, an outstanding staff, supportive parents and prestigious alumni, Whitmore-Bolles has much to celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all of my colleagues in congratulating Whitmore-Bolles Elementary on its 75th Anniversary.

COMMENDING RABBI SHALOM J. LEWIS

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Shalom Lewis on his 25th Anniversary at Congregation Etz Chaim in Cobb County.

Rabbi Lewis was installed as the first full-time Rabbi of Congregation Etz Chaim in September of 1978, and during his years of service has grown the membership to more than 800 families.

Rabbi Lewis has served not only his Synagogue and Congregation with distinction, but

also the entire Cobb County Community. It has been my personal privilege to participate with Rabbi Lewis at numerous Baccalaureate Services for the graduating seniors of Cobb County High Schools. He is a positive influence on the youth of our county.

The Churches and Synagogues of Cobb County contribute to the fabric of our community, and the quality of life of all our citizens. To that end, no one offers more personal enthusiasm and spiritual leadership than Rabbi Lewis.

It is my pleasure to recognize Rabbi Shalom Lewis on this the 25th year of his service to Congregation Etz Chaim and the Cobb County Community.

WALTER SISULU

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a resolution paying tribute to Walter Sisulu, a mentor, friend, and critical leader in the movement to free South Africa from apartheid.

The People's 'servant,' Walter Sisulu helped free both Black and White people from the bondage of segregation while driving home the concept of equality for all. He, along with Nelson Mandela, was imprisoned at Robben Island for 26 years for his role in seeking true democratic representation.

In 1910, the Union of South Africa established a whites only government that limited voting rights and implemented South Africa's segregation policy. In 1948, the National Party won an all-white general election on a campaign promise to introduce a system of "apartheid" to totally separate the races. Opposition to the apartheid system by the black majority was ruthlessly suppressed, and a system based on white supremacy remained until 1994.

Sisulu fought tirelessly against the policy of apartheid, sacrificing his life to free black South Africans and to demonstrate the power of representative democracy. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "He was blessed with that quality that always saw the good in others, and therefore he was able to bring out the goodness. He had an inexhaustible capacity to listen to others, and therefore he was able to encourage others to explore ideas."

After the victory over apartheid, Mr. Sisulu worked to advance the quality of life for the average man and woman that the former government had so long ignored and oppressed.

In closing, Walter's vision of a united and representative government that serves the needs of all its people remains a model for us all. For that he commands and deserves our respect.

Walter Sisulu, will be sorely missed. Please join me in honoring and remembering his dedication to true democracy.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce legislation that will elevate the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Cabinet and redesignate the EPA as the Department of Environmental Protection.

The United States is one of the few industrial nations that does not place environmental protection at a cabinet-level position. I believe that environmental protection is as important as other cabinet functions, and is critical to the health and well-being of this nation's environment and people.

During the 107th Congress, the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held three hearings to explore the merits of elevating EPA to department-level status. These hearings addressed two EPA elevation bills introduced by Congressman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT and former Congressman Steve Horn. Several experts, representatives of the regulated community, Federal and State officials testified not only about the merits of elevating EPA to department-level status, but also about current organizational problems at EPA that hinder effective environmental protection.

Currently, each EPA Regional office, Program office and division reports directly to EPA's Administrator and Deputy Administrator. The Subcommittee discovered that this "stove-pipe" organization results in EPA's inability to effectively address cross-media environmental protection. I believe that EPA's structure, as it currently exists, lacks adequate oversight and coordination of its offices to ensure that science, policy and implementation are integrated throughout EPA.

The Subcommittee also found that EPA lacks scientific leadership and critical science for decisionmaking. The Subcommittee found that many of the problems with EPA's science stems from the fact that scientific activities take place in both the Office of Research and Development and the Program offices without sufficient coordination and intraagency dissemination of information. My bill creates an Under Secretary for Science and Information that will advance environmental protection by conducting peer-reviewed scientific studies of the highest caliber.

Several departments have their own statistical agencies to provide independent and reliable data for decisionmaking and analysis. These include: the Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census; the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics; the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration; the Department of Health and Human Services' National Center for Health Statistics; and the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EPA lacks a similar function, resulting in unreliable statistical data on current environmental conditions necessary to measure whether EPA's policies and regulations efficiently and successfully protect the environment. My bill creates a Bureau of Environmental Statistics that I believe will provide the Department with the tools it needs to meet its responsibilities.